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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D C

THE NRO STAFF

February 13, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senate Armed Services Committee Testimony on the NRO

On Friday, February 8, I was contacted by Colonel Kutyna regarding Senator Symington's line of questioning on the NRO to Dr. McLucas during the Senate Armed Services Committee Hearing on February 7 (copy is attached). Colonel Kutyna related that Dr. McLucas had asked Colonel Usher to work toward cleaning up the record. Colonel Usher had, in turn, given the problem to General Boswell, SAFLL. Colonel Kutyna suggested that I speak with Colonel Usher on the matter. I offered him our assistance and he suggested that we get together with General Boswell.

Later in the morning, I was called down to see General Boswell. He had also called Colonel Armstrong and Lt Colonels Gleske and Dahmen of SAFLL to be present. General Boswell had discussed the security problem with Mr. Braswell, head of the Committee's staff. It was agreed that Mr. Ticer, Chief Clerk of the Committee should be apprised of the situation. General Boswell was concerned with the mechanics of cleaning up the testimony within the Pentagon security review process. I explained that the entire segment should be cut out of the testimony and that uncut documents must be classified TOP SECRET-Sensitive. In addition, the normal Air Force and OSD Security Review mechanism should not be employed in this case. He called Mr. Hinkle of OSD Security Review, who, it turned out, did not have [redacted] arances. Mr. Hinkle said that he would take the matter up with Mr. Friedheim. General Boswell then asked Lt Colonel Gleske and me to work with Mr. Ticer after the documents were ready at the printers.

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On Tuesday, February 12, Lt Colonel Gleske called me to say that the transcripts were ready. Colonel Armstrong picked up seven copies for the Air Force. Six additional copies were sent to Mr. Ticer on the Armed Services Committee Staff. Arrangements were made for Colonel Gleske and me to meet with Mr. Ticer later in the day. We then cut out the NRO related portion from six of the seven Air Force copies. The remaining one copy was transferred to me. The six copies would be used in the normal Air Staff review. All purged sections were retained by us.

In the afternoon we met with Mr. Braswell and Mr. Ticer. It was agreed that of the six copies in the possession of the Committee, two would remain uncut at the TOP SECRET-Sensitive classification. Two more were cut and reduced to TOP SECRET and retained by the Committee. The other two were transferred to the Air Force. One of these will be edited and cut to make the document unclassified for the Congressional Record. The final copy will be left intact and all the editions and insertions for the record, including the NRO portion, will be made. This copy will be retained in the Committee files as permanent record at the TOP SECRET-Sensitive level. All other copies will be destroyed after this process takes place.

During our session Mr. Braswell indicated that he thought that this problem would be able to be worked out satisfactorily but that things were getting "looser" and he did not know how long we could protect this kind of information.

Colonel Gleske and I agreed that the NRO portion would be pulled out for the normal edition process and then inserted immediately prior to transmittal to the Committee.

On February 13, General Boswell told me that Mr. Friedheim wished to review the document personally based upon what Mr. Hinkle had told him. I indicated that our preference is that the NRO portion be handled separately with Mr. Friedheim. General Boswell also indicated that he would have to talk to Senator Symington about this matter. I am not clear what this would accomplish since the Committee Staff appeared satisfied with the arrangement at this time.

[redacted]

Unless overruled or overtaken, we plan to stress the separate handling of the NRO testimony in the Pentagon, and will continue opposition to the entering of the testimony into the normal review process.

I have requested NRO Security and CIA Special Security to administer inadvertent disclosure oaths to the several people who had no clearances but were in attendance at the hearing.

[redacted]

HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.
Lt Colonel, USAF

[redacted]

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[redacted]

Secretary McLucas. Would you like me to answer that now?

Senator Symington. Can you do it?

Secretary McLucas. I am afraid I do not have it in my mind, sir.

Senator Symington. Well, would you file it for the record?

Secretary McLucas. Yes.

Senator Symington. Thank you.

What is the estimated total cost -- no. Is this system part of the National Reconnaissance Office referred to recently in the press?

Secretary McLucas. No, sir. By the way, in answering the question, when we do it for the record, it is fairly easy to say, to give you an estimate of the cost of the satellites and the control of those satellites that make up the Global Positioning System. The large cost is in the individual aircraft and other systems we want to use that system. So, if I give you a figure of [redacted] for the satellite, there might be [redacted] worth.

Senator Symington. Well, you give us those figures you think are pertinent.

Secretary McLucas. Right.

Senator Symington. There was an article in the press on December 9th, and this question is based on that article. It states "for the past several years the supervision of the National Reconnaissance Office has 'nominally been in the hands

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of the Undersecretary of the Air force.'"

Is that the case, and if so, could you give us a little more data as to what the NRO is and does?

Secretary McLucas. Yes. The NRO has been under the jurisdiction of the Undersecretary of the Air Force continuously since 1960, with the exception of one period when it was under the Assistant Secretary, Dr. Flax, between the years of '65 and '69.

The office is a management office, it is a very small number of people. It manages a program of about [redacted] a year to develop and operate a system of reconnaissance satellites. These satellites are developed by either the Air Force, CIA or the Navy, mainly by the Air Force. The program is operated as a covert program in the sense that none of this has appeared as an identifiable line item. All of the information with respect to this program has been made available to the Select Committees that normally supervise the CIA program.

Senator Symington. When you say the Select Committees, do you mean the CIA Subcommittee of this Committee?

Secretary McLucas. Yes, sir.

Senator Symington. Are you sure of that?

Secretary McLucas. Yes.

Senator Symington. In 1970, the National Reconnaissance Program accounted for abou[redacted] of the total intelligence budget.

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Is that still the case in fiscal year 1975?

Secretary McLucas. Essentially so, yes.

Senator Symington. Do you know the amount is what the question is.

Secretary McLucas. For NRO?

Senator Symington. Yes.

Would you file it for the record?

Secretary McLucas. Yes. It is just slightly over a [redacted] essentially a [redacted]

Senator Symington. Thank you.

How many personnel are assigned to the NRO?

Secretary McLucas. I would have to submit the details for the record.

Senator Symington. Would you do that?

Thank you.

General Brown, I have a few questions here for you and a little time left.

On page 5 you make reference to the fact that the ICBM force today consists of 1000 MINUTE MAN and 54 TITAN missiles. Is it still the plan to phase out the 54 TITAN missiles in the near future?

General Brown. It is, yes, sir.

Senator Symington. On page 10 you stated, "we plan to step up our research and development efforts in this area as a hedge against failure to reach essential equivalents of our

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